AN

# ESSAY,

OR,

# Modeſt Propoſal,

Of a WAY

To encreaſe the Number of People, and conſequently the Strength of this Kingdom; to improve the Woollen Manufacture, and raiſe the Values of Land, of Corn, Cattle, and moſt other things of the Product and Growth of *England*; and raiſe a conſiderable Sum of Money to their Majeſties, and that after ſuch a manner as will be very much for the Advantage of the Kingdom: Out of which might be ſettled a Fund for the Encouragement and Maintenance of Diſtreſſed and Diſabled Mariners or Sea-men, or what elſe ſhould be thought more convenient.

*With all Dutiful Reſpect moſt humbly offered to the Conſideration of the* LORDS *and* COMMONS *in Parliament aſſembled.*

BIBL.
LONDIN.
UNIV.

# AN ESSAY, OR, Modeſt Propoſal, &c.

I Should not offer to preſent this to the Conſideration of ſo Auguſt an Aſſembly, but that the conſideration of the Advantages that it would bring to the Publick; and to probably every particular Member of that Great Council; makes me not only hope for pardon, but that this will meet with a kind reception from thoſe worthy Patriots that have done ſo much in a few years time towards rendering this Nation the happieſt ſpot of ground in the Univerſe.

I do look upon this to be the time that the People of *England* may expect from the Great Council of the Nation all the extraordinary Laws for the Publick Good that can be thought of, and that upon a double accouut, both becauſe they are ſecure that their preſent Majeſties will not give a Negative to any Bill that is for the Glory of God, or the Public Good; and for that they will (I preſume) think it convenient to endeavor, not only ſuch a reformation as may render this Nation not unworthy that particular Providence that hath of late aſſiſted it; but to put it into a way of growing better, richer and ſtronger, both at home and abroad, that it may be the better able to aſſiſt his Majeſty, to perfect thoſe great deſigns he hath ſo happily begun, and carried on hitherto: and that when he hath got it an advantageous Peace, it may not by its Wickedneſſes provoke God Almighty to withdraw that Bleſſing.

That Debauchery, Leudneſs, and ſome other ills have been rather upon the increaſe, than otherwiſe, this Twenty or Thirty years laſt paſt; and that they are now much too commonly practiſed, I ſhall not offer to prove, it being but too apparent to thinking and obſerving People. And that the Values of Land hath not met with that improvement, that hath been wiſhed for and endeavoured by many Friends to their Country, I preſume moſt People that have Eſtates have experience; and particularly thoſe men of Quality and Fortune, to whom I addreſs theſe lines; ſo that I ſhall let that alone too: and only at preſent endeavor to propoſe ſomething that will remedy in a great meaſure theſe Evils, which I hope will not be ſlighted for coming from an unknown hand.

I have with great impartiality and ſtrictneſs beſtowed ſome time, to diſcover the Cauſe and Nature of the increaſe and continuance of theſe before-mentioned Evils, as alſo that of Drunkenneſs; and I hope with that ſucceſs, that I do not queſtion, but I could propoſe two or three things to this I ſhall here mention, that would almoſt totally prevent Debauchery and Leudneſs for the future; and that would go a great way to cure Drunkenneſs. or at leaſt prevent it in moſt of the Youth that are yet free of it: and that without inflicting any corporal or pecuniary Puniſhment upon any one.

But I ſhall content my ſelf at preſent only to offer at one way to attain theſe ends, which is to bring Marriage, of late ſo much neglected, into a little more requeſt, the doing of which would encourage Virtue, and diſcourage Vice; increaſe the Number of People, and conſequently the Strength of the Kingdom, and contribute very much to raiſe the value of Land. For as the general indifferency that is now got even into the meaner ſort of People of this Age, for Marriage, occaſions much Vice, ſo doth it beyond any other thing, yea all other things tend to depopulation, an ill of dangerous conſequence, and moſt neceſſary to be provided againſt by any Government that deſires to flouriſh: I know there are ſome other things that do harm, that are neither ſo eaſy, nor ſo convenient to be redreſſed; as incloſing of common Fields, the Foreign Plantations, *Ireland*, and the Wars, *&c.* but they are not all to be compared to this, and if this were but ſo effectually redreſſed, as it would be by what is here propoſed, there would ſoon be ſuch an increaſe of People as would ſupply the reſt, and raiſe the Value of Land conſiderably.

Now beſides this want of People (which is already in ſome places ſo great, as that Laborors can hardly be got for Money) there are other things very fit and eaſy to be redreſſed, that do much prejudice the increaſe of the Value of Land, and occaſion a fall of Rents; as the increaſe of Wages of Servants, and all ſorts of Laboring People, which in ſome places to my knowledge are riſen a third part within theſe few years; for if a Farmer pay 5 *l.* a year more in Servants Wages than was paid twenty years ago, it muſt neceſſarily follow, that he muſt pay ſo much leſs Rent; but this would be much remedied by an increaſe of People, or of the Number of Servants; but hardly by what ſome think, the Juſtices of Peace ſetting lower Wages at the Seſſions, *&c.* as might be eaſily ſhewn, were it to my purpoſe.

There is alſo another thing that doth very much prejudice the Value of Land, and doth yearly ruine many Families and hopeful Tradeſmen (which will alſo be remedyed by what I ſhall here propoſe) that is the extravagant and expenſive Apparel of the meaner ſort of People; for not only Farmers are obliged to be at a greater charge to habit (for I cannot call it cloath, that being ſo little uſed) their Children, that they may appear ſomething like their Servants (which muſt alſo occaſion an abatement of Rents) but Countrymen that are averſe enough to ſuch exceſs, muſt for decency ſake, ſuffer their Children to follow the Stream. And the Tradeſmen, even in moſt of the Towns of the Kingdom, muſt for Quietneſs or Pride, habit their Wives and Daughters as if they had 500 *l.* a year inheritance: Yea, when they dare hardly appear in their Shops; and it is become a very great charge upon the inferior Gentry, to appear now like ſuch, conſidering how Servants and other mean People are ſet out.

And

And this extravagancy is not only in Fooleries, and things that make no conſiderable conſumption of any thing of the Product of the Nation, for black Woollen Hats, which deſtroyed a great quantity of Wooll, is almoſt quite routed from amongſt the meaner ſort of People by inſignificant Straw Hats, and from amongſt the Tradeſmens Wives and Daughters, by Black Hoods and Top-knots; and Cloth, Searges, and other Woollen Manufactures, by Half Silk Stuffs, a very improper Habit for every common Servant, and very unprofitable to the Public. And which is another ill, to maintain this expence, Hoſpitality is almoſt quite routed out of the Kingdom, which muſt neceſſarily be a great occaſion of the fall of Rents, ſeeing there is at leaſt a third part leſs Proviſions deſtroyed by the ſame number of People in many places than formerly, for it is but few that can bear the charge of both, and therefore the Belly and the Poor, muſt be pinched to get fine Cloaths. I know ſome will ſay theſe exceſſes tend to the Advantage of the Kingdom, and to the Incouragement of Trade; I grant it might be ſo, if they were in Hoſpitality, or in the Conſumption of the natural Product of the Nation; but not ſo when they are in things that hinder the Conſumption of the Product of the Nation.

I do preſume it was never more ſeaſonable than now to prevent all expences prejudicial to the Public, to help the Kingdom with more eaſe to pay ſuch Aſſeſſments as will be neceſſary till the *French* King be brought lower, for till then we can hope for no Peace: And I do not queſtion, but if what is here propoſed were put into a Law, that beſides the other Advantages, it would ſave many Thouſands of People more Money yearly in unneceſſary expences, than they have paid in Aſſeſſments, and would gain to as many others as much more in advance of Rents, and would make good every thing mentioned in its Title.

Now the ways I ſhould propoſe to do this is, firſt to injoyn a ſmall ſum of Money to be paid by all conditions of People, above ſuch an Age, ſo long as they ſhall continue unmarried, and next enjoyn a ſmall ſum of Money to be paid by People under ſuch and ſuch Qualities, that ſhall wear ſuch and ſuch Habits, for I am not for commanding the firſt, that is Peoples marrying; or for forbidding the latter, the People of *England* hating to be forced: but to do it after ſuch a manner as may ſhew the Government is not pleaſed with it, and may cure it inſenſibly, as the Method I ſhall here propoſe, I preſume would, if it were put into a Law, as I ſhall endeavour afterwards to ſhew.

I do humbly propoſe, *That foreſeeing the General Diſreſpect for Marriage doth not only occaſion much Lewdneſs, but alſo a decreaſe of People, and conſequently a Decay of Strength, of Riches, of the Value of Land; and doth threaten this Kingdom with depopulation, if not timely remedied: And being ſenſible that the expenſive and extravagant Apparel of the meaner ſort of People doth not only tend much to their Impoveriſhment, but to the general Prejudice of the Kingdom, by diſcouraging moſt of the Woollen Manufactures, and hindering the Increaſe of the value of Land, that to prevent theſe Evils:* It might by the Parliament be Enacted, *&c.*

*To incourage Marriage in all Conditions of People, and to ſet a little Mark of Puniſhment or Shame upon all ſuch as ſhall contemn or neglect a Duty ſo beneficial to the Government, and ſo neceſſary for the Propagation of Mankind: That the ſeveral Rates, or Sums*

*of Money hereafter mentioned ſhould be paid to their Majeſties by all Men and Women of what condition ſoever (that have not been married) for every half year they ſhall live unmarried, after they come to the Ages hereafter mentioned and ſet down, that is the Men to* 21, *and the Women to* 20.

*And that every Man and Woman that ſhould be above the Ages aforementioned, upon the firſt day of* May *next, or upon the firſt of* November *next following, or upon any firſt day of* May, *or firſt day of* November *afterwards, during their Majeſties Life, or the Survivor of them, ſhould pay upon every of thoſe days after they attain to the Ages aforementioned, until they marry, according to theſe rates following.*

*That is, Every Man or Woman, of what condition or quality ſoever, ſhould upon every of the days aforementioned, while they continue unmarried, pay the ſum of one ſhilling ſixpence, that is, three ſhillings by the year. Except ſuch Servants and Apprentices as ſhould wear Hats of* Engliſh *Wooll, and no Silk or half-Silk, or Cloath or Stuff any ways mixed or lined with Silk upon their Heads or Bodies (other than the Silk uſed in ſowing or making up their Woollen cloths) nor any Buttons, Lace, Fringe, Thread or Wire of Gold or Silver, or any Mettal in imitation of, or gilded with Gold or Silver; who ſhould only pay upon the days aforementioned the ſum of ſix-pence, that is one ſhilling by the year.*

*The Sons and Daughters of all Gentlemen, or Reputed Gentlemen, Clergy-men, Attorneys, Sollicitors, Proctors, and of every other Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, that ſhould after the firſt day of* April *next wear any Silk, or Half-Silk, or Cloth, or Stuff mixed, lined, or faced, with any Silk or half Silk, upon their Heads or Bodies (other than the Buttons and Silk uſed in ſowing and making up their Woollen Cloaths) or any Buttons, Lace, Fringe, Thread or Wire of Gold or Silver, or of Tinſel, or any other Mettal gilded with Gold or Silver; and that ſhould not wear Hats of Wool, ſhould upon every of the days aforementioned, while they continue unmarried, pay the Sum of three Shillings, that is ſix Shillings by the year.*

*The Sons and Daughters of all Knights, Sergeants at Law, Doctors of Divinity, Law or Phyſick, ſhould upon every of the days aforementioned, while they continue unmarried, pay the ſum of four ſhillings, that is eight ſhillings by the year.*

*The Sons and Daughters of all Baronets and Judges, ſhould upon every of the days,* &c. *pay the ſum of* 5 *ſhillings, that is* 10 *ſhillings by the year.*

*The Sons and Daughters of all Barons,* &c. 7 *s.* 6 *d. that is* 15 *s. by the year.*

*The Sons and Daughters of all Viſcounts,* &c. 10 *s. that is* 20 *s. by the year.*

*The Sons and Daughters of all Earls,* &c. 12 *s.* 6 *d. that is* 25 *s. by the year.*

*The Sons and Daughters of all Marquiſſes,* &c. 15 *s. that is* 30 *s. by the year.*

*The Sons and Daughters of all Dukes,* &c. 20 *s. that is* 40 *s. by the year.*

I do alſo humbly propoſe, that *Whereas the expenſive and extravagant apparel of the meaner ſort of Women, is not only prejudicial to their Husbands, but to Hoſpitality, and to the Kingdom in general,* It might be by the Parliament Enacted, &c. *that all Wives and Widdows, (except the Wives, Widdows, Daughters, and Sons Wives of all the Nobility, and their Children; and of all Baronets and Knights, and of all thoſe that are or ſhall be Members of Parliament; and of all Eſquires by Birth or Office, all Juſtices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Barriſters at Law; and of all Doctors of Divinity, Law or Phyſick: And except the Wives of all Deans, Arch-Deacons, Chancellors, Prebendaries, Heads of Colleges or Halls; and except the Wives of all Merchants, Shop-keepers and Houſholders, that are Free-men of the Cities of* London *and* Weſtminſter, *and are worth Three hundred pounds; and of all Miniſters officiating within the ſame: And except the Wives of all*

*Mayors*

*Mayors of Corporations for the time of such their Mayoralty only) that shall, after the first day of* April *next, wear any Silk or Half Silk, or Cloath or Stuff any way mixed or lined with Silk, upon their Heads or Bodies, (other than the Silk used in sowing or making up their Woollen Cloths) or any Buttons, Lace, Fringe, Thread or Wire of Gold or Silver, or of Tinsel, or any other Mettal gilded with Gold or Silver, and that shall not wear Hats of Wooll, should upon every of the days afore-mentioned pay the sum of three shillings, that is six shillings by the year, till they should wear Hats of Wooll, and give over wearing Silk, Lace, Buttons, Fringe, Thread or Wire of Gold or Silver, or of Tinsel, or any other Mettal gilded with Gold or Silver.*

*And to discourage the wearing of Straw or Wood Hats or Bonnets, so expensive and prejudicial to the Woollen Manufacture of Hats, That all Men and Women, above the age of* 16, *that should after the first day of* April *next, wear any Straw or Wood Hats or Bonnets, should be charged for the same, as those that wear Gold or Silver Lace,* &c. *that is, should pay* 3 *s. upon every of the days afore-mentioned.*

*That the Wives and Widdows of all Aldermen of Corporations, and of all Ministers should be allowed for Decency and Gravity sake to wear little black Silk Hoods under their Woollen Hats.*

I do also humbly propose, that *To the end that the several sums afore mentioned might be raised with the least trouble, that the Constables, Headboroughs or Tything men, and three or more substantial Inhabitants of every Constablewick or Township, should upon every first day of* May, *and upon every first day of* November, *in the afternoon, meet at some publick place within the said Constablewick or Township, and make up a List of all the Men and Women in their Constablewick or Township, chargeable upon the said days to pay. Two of which Lists, fairly written under their hands, setting down the Names, Sirnames and Qualities, under which every one is to pay, should be carried within four days, by the Constable, Headborough or Tything-man, or other Officer of the place, to the next Justice of the Peace, to be by him allowed under his Hand and Seal; one of which Lists so signed, should be delivered forthwith to such Collector as should be appointed by their Majesties Commissioner General to receive the said Money, to be by him transmitted to the said Commissioner General, to be a charge upon the said Collector. And the other List should be kept by the said Constable, or other Officer, thereby to demand, collect, and gather the sums therein mentioned, which he should be obliged to do within fifteen days time after the day the said sums become due; and to pay the same, and deliver the said List within six days afterwards to the said Collector, whose Receipt should be a sufficient discharge to the said Constable, and to those whose Money he had received: And for his pains the Collector should allow him six pence for every twenty shillings he should so collect and pay.*

*And the Treasurers or other Officer of every Inns of Court, Inns of Chancery, College or Hall, should make and return Lists, signed by the Head, or two of the next present Seniors, of such persons as are chargable within their several precincts, in the same manner, and at the same time as Constables, and be liable to the like penalties in case of neglect or refusal.*

*And to the end that none should evade paying, by pretending themselves Servants or Apprentices, when indeed they were no such thing, or by shifting from place to place before the days of payment; power should be given to Masters and Mistresses to detain or keep back so much of their Wages, upon their removing near such days of payment, as aforesaid; and that none should be excused as Servants or Apprentices, that should live with their Father or Mother, Grand father or Grand-mother, Unkle or Aunt, Brother or Sister, or with their Guardians; and to prevent abuses in false Lists, in peoples being left out or charged short, that upon their being convicted of the same before the next Justice of the Peace, they should be charged double.*

That

*That the Collectors ſhould have power to enquire into the truth of the Liſts brought them, and upon diſcovery of any abuſes, might ſummon the Offender to go before the next Juſtice of the Peace, &c. and that if any perſon ſhould think himſelf aggrieved by the Judgment of the ſaid Juſtice, he ſhould have liberty to appeal to the next Seſſions ( giving notice to the other party) which ſhould be final.*

*And to prevent their Majeſties being cheated of any part of the Money to be raiſed, that the Juſtices ſhould be obliged once a year to certifie to the Seſſions an account of all convictions made before them, and that the Clerks of the Peace ſhould be obliged to certifie once a year as well thoſe return'd by the Juſtices, as thoſe made in open Seſſions, to their Majeſties Commiſſioner General, to be a charge upon the Collectors.*

*And to prevent any failure in the due execution, and to the end that the Money received. might be truly anſwered, that a penalty of* 10 *l. ſhould be inflicted upon every Conſtable, &c. that ſhould neglect or refuſe to do his duty; and alſo upon the Clerks of the Peace for every time they ſhould neglect to make Certificates to the Commiſſioner General, as afore-mentioned.*

I ſhould have been much more particular about the Method of collecting the Money, that would ariſe upon the propoſals before mentioned, as well to prevent abuſes in thoſe that ſhould pay, and in thoſe that ſhould collect or receive; as alſo that it might the better anſwer what I promiſe in the Title: but for fear of offending, or being tedious. And yet I thought it neceſſary to hint at the moſt material things, that I might the better ſhew how they would anſwer the ends I propoſed, if they ſhould be framed into a Bill, and paſſed into a Law.

The Money propoſed to be charged upon the ſeveral conditions of unmarried people, tho in it ſelf not ſo conſiderable as may at firſt glance appear, will yet I preſume be ſufficient to anſwer all the ends I expect from it; and the Ages propoſed for the beginning of the ſaid charge, is I think moſt equal: The ſhame that Men and Women will fancy in paying, will ſpur them on to Marriage, at leaſt the better ſort; and it will not only do as much in the meaner ſort, but it will inſenſibly bring them to wear the manufacture and product of the *Engliſh* Nation; the want of the doing of which, with want of People, are the two chief cauſes of the decreaſe of the value of Land, and the dullneſs of Trade, ſo much complained on, and not the War, as ſome fancy, ſeeing there is certainly more Wollen Cloth now exported than was when Wooll carried a much greater price in the Kingdom. And the Army doth conſume many thouſand pounds worth of Wooll more yearly than would be if there were no ſuch thing.

I have on purpoſe propoſed it harder upon three ſorts of People than any other, and that for theſe reaſons.

*Firſt*, upon the Sons and Daughters of the meaner ſort of People that ſhall be kept idling at home, who I propoſe to be charged three ſhillings by the year, that they may marry them, or put them abroad to be Servants, which would make Servants more plentiful, and to be had for much leſs wages, a thing of great advantage to all Farmers and Houſe-keepers in general, and that would certainly encreaſe Rents: And I hope it will not be thought too great a charge upon ſuch as are too proud to be Servants, to pay three ſhillings a year till they marry: Nor I think is one ſhilling a year either too little or too much for thoſe Servants or Apprentices that comply with wearing Woollen, ſeeing they cannot well pay leſs, and it's convenient they ſhould pay ſomething to prompt them to marry. And if

any

any are againſt having thoſe excepted, from paying as Servants, that live with their Fathers, Mothers, *&c.* I deſire they will but conſider, and they will find, that without that exception there will be few more Servants than are now, nor would the moſt of thoſe that live with ſuch Relations pay more than Servants, though in truth they were no ſuch thing: which would prejudice ſeveral of the benefits to be received by theſe propoſals.

*Secondly*, Upon ſuch Servants and meaner ſort of People as ſhall continue to wear Silk, Gold or Silver Lace, *&c.* and as ſhall refuſe to wear Hats of Wooll, all which I propoſe to be charged as much as Gentlemens Sons and Daughters, that is ſix Shillings by the year, to make them give over wearing Habits ſo unſuitable to their conditions, by the doing of which the Woollen Manufacture would not only be very much improved, (for even the general wearing but of Woollen Hats would conſume a great quantity of Wooll yearly) But it would become a much leſs expence to the meaner ſort of Gentry to diſtinguiſh their Children for ſuch, and it would certainly in a little time gain, or ſave, moſt of the Land-holders in *England* more Money than would anſwer their Aſſeſſments to their Majeſties for carrying on the War; that is, gain in the increaſe of Rents, and of the value of all things of *Engliſh* Growth; and ſave in Servants Wages, in clothing their Children, and ſeveral other things that might be named, worth being conſidered.

*Thirdly*, Upon the Wives of the Meaner ſort of People, to bring them to wear ſuch Cloaths as are fitter for them, than often to wear a great part of their Husbands Eſtate upon their Backs. And there is no queſtion but it will do it by degrees, for the generality of People will comply with wearing any ſort of Habit, rather than pay yearly, a ſmall Sum of Money upon any public account.

And if any ſhall think this charge will be too hard, or that it will raiſe too much Money, or that it will occaſion too many new Offices, or that it will prejudice the Manufacture of Silk, or that of Straw, or Wood Hats or Bonnets.

*To the firſt*, I anſwer it cannot really be eſteemed ſo, ſeeing none needs pay longer than they pleaſe, for let them but marry and wear Cloaths ſuitable for them, and they will be no ways charged by what I have propoſed, or let them but be Servants, and the charge will be very ſmall.

*To the ſecond*, I anſwer, it will not raiſe ſo great a ſum as may be apprehended, for people will comply with the deſign of ſuch a Law rather than pay any thing, and then the Money due would be every year much leſs than other. And probably before it could be got into a good way of management, there would not be ſo many people chargable by at leaſt a third part as would be now: But admit it would raiſe a much greater ſum than it really will, hath not the Government occaſion for it; and can it be better raiſed than after a way that will bring ſo many benefits to the publick; for if this Money were to be buried, I dare engage the Kingdom would gain by paying it, for it is hardly to be imagined how much it would do as to the anſwering all that's promiſed in its title: But there might be a fund charged out of it for the maintenance of diſtreſſed or diſabled Mariners or Seamen, and conſidering that *England*'s ſafety depends much upon thoſe ſort of People, it is but prudent to give them more than ordinary encouragement. Or it might go towards paying of the charge of the Tranſport Ships, and prevent the ruine of a great many Families; or there might be a fund to cure an evil now too common in moſt parts of the Kingdom, that is Clipping and Coyning, by erecting

a Pri-

a Priſon or Work-houſe in ſome remote part of the Kingdom, to which ſuch Offenders ſhould be confined for Life, which might be ſo contrived, as to cure that evil ſooner than the taking away of Life, as now practiſed, as I think I could make evident; or to what elſe ſhall be thought more convenient.

*To the Third*, I anſwer, it is true it muſt neeeds occaſion ſome Officers to get it truly collected, and the more exactly it is collected the better it will be for the Kingdom: but the number imployed need not be many, for I ſhould not queſtion but to propoſe a way to manage it at a very moderate charge, and ſo as it ſhould hardly be poſſible for any imployed therein to cheat ot wrong their Majeſties of any part of it without being diſcovered.

And as *to the Fourth*, I deſire to know whether the manufacture of Wooll, the natural Product of the Nation, be not in the firſt place to be conſidered, and then I ſhall anſwer that it will not prejudice the Silk Manufacture near ſo much, as it will advantage the other; for there will be ſo many to wear Silk, that are not propoſed to be charged for the ſame, as will be ſufficient not only to keep up, but to encourage that Manufacture: As all the Nobility, the Gentry, moſt of the Citizens of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and a great many others that will come within that exception; and beſides which there will be a great many that will wear it, though they pay for their Pride, but for ſuch it is but reaſonable they ſhould pay for prejudicing the Public. And as to that of Straw Hats or Bonnets, it is not to be named the ſame day with that of Wool; however there may be enough worn to continue that Manufacture, which doth much more prejudice than good to the Public; for Children, and young People under 16 are not propoſed to be forbid wearing them, and thoſe that wear Silk may wear them without any increaſe of Charge.

I need not I think ſay much, why I would diſcourage the wearing of Lace, *&c.* in the Meaner ſort of People, it being ſo apparent an improper Habit, and become ſo expenſive to them, that I believe no thinking man will encourage it.

Now beſides the benefits that what is here propoſed, would bring to the Public in incouraging the Woollen Manufacture, and increaſing the Value of Land, the Number of People, and conſequently the Strength of the Kingdom: The Diſcouragement that it would give to Vice, will I preſume be ſufficient to make it take with all good Friends to their Country. I know that there is another thing that would much more effectually ſuppreſs Vice, and encourage Marriage, which I have before hinted at, and which I may probably offer to the Public, if this meet with a kind reception. But this would do well at preſent, and truly I cannot but think, ſomething more than ordinary ſhould be done to ſuppreſs Vice, and to inable the Kingdom to pay Aſſeſſments; if we deſire God Almighty ſhould continue his favors to us, and to be in a poſture to defend our ſelves againſt a *French* power.

I muſt needs ſay I think there might be ſeveral conſiderable ſums of money raiſed towards the ſupport of the Government, after ſuch ways as would be much for the advantage of the Kingdom, as inſtead of forbidding any thing that is prejudicial to the the Public, to lay an impoſition upon it, and ſo raiſe an additional Revenue, which would not only be a better way of rooting any inconvenient thing out of the Kingdom, but would decreaſe as to the quantity of the ſum to be raiſed, as the inconveniency to be removed were diſcontinued, which would

be

be a way of raiſing money in reality hard upon no body, for I cannot look upon it hard if upon the doing ſome extravagant action, I ſhould be obliged to pay ſo much to the Government, ſeeing by the not doing it I ſhould be clear, and that therefore the charge is Voluntary. And I do not queſtion but I could propoſe ſomething to this I here offer, that ſhould not only this year raiſe a conſiderable ſum of Money to the Government, and that without being hard upon any one poor perſon, but that ſhould put the Kingdom into a much better condition to pay aſſeſſments; and which ſhould be managed after the ſame manner, and by the ſame Officers without any increaſe of charge. And I have had thoughts of mentioning a thing that ſhould either ſave the Kingdom 2 or 300000 pounds a year in a very unneceſſary and prejudicial expence, or raiſe a ſum of money to the uſe of the Government, and which ſhould decreaſe as the expence aforementioned were diſcontinued; but for fear it ſhould be thought I have done more than enough already, I ſhall forbear.

Now *I* ſhall not ſay much about the way *I* propoſe for the collecting of it, it being *I* think obvious to any that the Conſtables are not only the likelieſt to know who are chargeable, but to collect it with the leaſt trouble and charge, and by that means there needs be fewer Officers imploy'd by their Majeſties, which make the money raiſed more conſiderable. I do alſo propoſe to have all diſputes determined by the adjoyning Juſtices, with only an appeal to the Seſſions; and the penalty propoſed to be laid upon the Clerks of the Peace, Conſtables, &c. that ſhall neglect or refuſe to do their duty, is but convenient to get the Revenue truly anſwered, and to prevent abuſes.

I muſt confeſs *I* am a little at a loſs as to the wording that part of the Exception for the Citizens Wives of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, for though *I* would bring many into the Exception that *I* think were as fit to be habited in Woollen, as in Silk, out of reſpect to the inhabitants of thoſe great Cities, yet *I* would not have it reach to every poor Mans Wife of the Town, and therefore *I* propoſe they ſhould be worth 300 pounds at leaſt. As to the reſt of *England I* think the Exception is large enough.

And now give me leave to hope that none of the Worthy Founders of their Countrys happineſs will ſcruple to give his aſſent to a thing that will be ſo beneficial to the Publick, though he do thereby lay a ſmall charge upon ſome of his Children, or may be upon himſelf, for as neither of them will I preſume be of any long continuance, ſo will they not be of any conſideration in compariſon of the gain they will meet with in the improvement of Rents, and the leſſening of other expences, and of the general advantages that will accrue to the Publick, which ſhould be the chief thing to be conſidered, as I am ſure it is by me: for the charge I here propoſe is likely to lie as hard upon me, and probably for as long a time, as upon any man, but I do not conſider that in compariſon with the other, nor will I hope any of thoſe worthy Patriots, to whom this is addreſſed.

*Whoſe Pardon I do with all Humility and Submiſſion beg for this boldneſs, which is purely occaſioned by my Zeal for the Proſperity of my Native Country.*

*FINIS.*